

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

FEBRUARY 14, 1827.

Mr. BATEMAN made the following report :

The Committee of Claims, to which has been referred the petition of Daniel Renner,

REPORT :

That the petitioner, as the responsible partner of the firm of Renner and Heath, was, at the period of the late war, proprietor of a rope walk, in the city of Washington, which, together with its contents, consisting of cordage, yarns, and unwrought materials in their line, were destroyed by the enemy, at the invasion of 1814.

Apprehending what would be the fate of this property, in the event of its falling into the hands of the enemy, Renner and Heath took measures to have the moveable part of it transferred to a place of safety, by first contracting for boats, and afterwards land vehicles, for the purpose. These means, on which they relied for the removal of their property, and at the critical moment when they were required for that service, were taken from them by officers of the Government, by impressment, and employed in the removal of public records, &c. in consequence of which, the property of the petitioner fell a sacrifice to the torch of the invader.

The property thus destroyed has been valued as follows, viz :

First cost of rope walk, - - - - -	\$ 5,650
Value of cordage, yarns, hemp, and tar, in the rope walk, - - - - -	24,767
Amount of claim, - - - - -	<u>\$ 30,417</u>

In the month of March, 1818, the Committee of Claims of the House of Representatives made a report on this claim, by which, (after putting aside the value of the rope walk, on the ground that it would have been destroyed, if the other property had been removed,) they recognise the claim of \$ 24,767, the alleged value of the moveable property, subject to a deduction of 20 per cent. or \$ 4,953 40, for the expense and damage incident to its removal from, and subsequent return to, the walk, and for presumed overcharges. For the claim, thus reduced to the sum of \$ 19,803 60, a bill was reported, which passed into a law, and this sum has been paid the petitioner.

The petitioner now claims further allowance. He denies that the

articles were overcharged ; but that the estimates made at that time were at fair and reasonable prices, and less than they were worth very soon afterwards. He states, also, that the deductions made for removal and damage, were more than ten times the amount that ought to have been allowed ; and, also, that there was in, and consumed with the rope walk, 1750 lbs. of seine twine, worth $62\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb. equal to \$ 1,093, which he did not know of at the time the claim was made out, and which was not included in the amount granted. The petitioner likewise suggests doubts whether the rope walk would have been destroyed, if the moveable property had been taken away.

With this statement he presents himself before Congress, and asks to be allowed such further sum as may be deemed just and right.

The Committee are disposed to view this in the light of an adjudicated claim. They are of opinion that the charge for the rope walk was rightfully excluded ; and that few of the numerous class of sufferers by the event of the late war, have been favored with more liberal remuneration than was granted to the petitioner, on the charges for losses exhibited by him, under the act of 1818.

As to the new charge of \$ 1,093, for 1750 lbs. of twine, which is now brought forward, and which, at the time of the passage of the act referred to, it is alleged, was not known to have been destroyed, the Committee are of opinion that it ought not to be entertained.

It is unaccountable to them, that several years should have elapsed before such discovery should have been made by the owners, especially as, in the mean time, they had made up a statement of their losses, for the purpose of urging the claim therefor on Congress.

The Committee submit the following resolution :

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner be not granted.